

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03802 171444Z
ACTION NEA-10

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P R 171307Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3548
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3802

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SY
SUBJECT: JUNE 17 AL-BAATH ON CARTER-GOREN MEETING

1. ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE OF JUNE 17 SYRIAN DAILY AL-BAATH
WAS ENTITLED "CARTER: "I NEVER DAMANED...OR PROPOSED
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. WE
STAND ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL. WE WILL NOT TRY TO IMPOSE ANY
SETTLEMENT NOT ACCEPTABLE TO IT*" ARTICLE, DATELINED
WASHINGTON AND ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH SANA AND INTERNATIONAL
AGENCIES, READ IN PART: "THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER DEMANDED OR PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, AND THAT HIS STATEMENTS
ON THIS SUBJECT WERE INTENDED TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THIS
MATTER IN THE FRAMEWORK OF JORDAN. PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO
CONFIRMED THAT THE US STANDS ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL. THIS
STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TOOK PLACE IN
A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH RABBI SHLOMO GOREN. RABI OF
ISRAEL, DURING THEIR MEETING EVENING BEFORE LAST AT
THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON...THE ENEMY RADIO BROADCAST
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THIS STATEMENT YESTERDAY." ARTICLE CONCLUDED, "MEANWHILE,
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED MILITARY AID BILL EVENING
BEFORE LAST TOTALLING ABOUT DOLS 3.2 BILLION. THE ENEMY
RADIO ADMITTED YESTERDAY THAT ISRAEL'S SHARE ALONE OF THIS
MILITARY AID WOULD TOTAL DOLS 2.785 BILLION, THAT IS, MORE
THAN HALF OF THE TOTAL."

2. LEAD EDITORIAL BY MAHOMED MANSOUR, ENTITLED "THE ARABS POSSESS MOST OF THE ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS," EXPANDED ON ABOVE NEWS ACCOUNT AND ASSERTED THAT US STAND TOWARD ME WAS GRADUALLY BECOMING CLEAR. "BY SIMPLE LINK BETWEEN CARTER'S RECENT COUNTER-STATEMENTS AND THE AMERICAN MILITARY AID BILL FOR ISRAEL AND WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN ISRAEL, ONE REACHES THE CONVICTION THAT EVENTS IN ISRAEL ARE NOT REMOTE FROM VIEW OF AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, IF NOT INDEED PLANNED BY IT." AFTER CITING SIGNS OF ISRAELI MILITARY PREPARATIONS, MANSOUR CONTINUED, "IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT CHANCES FOR PEACE IN AREA HAVE ACTUALLY BECOME MORE DISTANT, WHILE CHANCES FOR WAR ARE BECOMING GREATER, AS A RESULT OF ISRAEL'S POSTURE AND AMERICA'S BLESSING OF IT."

3. COMMENT: WHILE CAUTIONING SYRIAN AND DIPLOMATIC QUESTIONERS AGAINST LEAPING TO CONCLUSIONS ON BASIS OF UNOFFICIAL STATEMENTS, WE HAVE HAD TO SAY THAT AS YET WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED BY RADIO ISRAEL TO PRESIDENT CARTER. OFFICIAL TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S REPORTED REMARKS HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY SEPTTEL FROM USIA.
PELLETREAU

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